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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

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ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: ARAFAT ON COEXISTENCE AND NEGOTIATION WITH ISRAEL

REF :

25X1A2g

25X1X65

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IN A SEPARATE PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH THE CAIRO NEWSPAPER AL-AHRAM YESTERDAY, ARAFAT TWICE SPOKE OF A "DISENGAGEMENT" ON THE WEST BANK. ASKED IF HE WOULD REFUSE A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT OFFERED TO JORDAN BY ISRAEL, HE REPLIED THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE PREPARED TO GIVE EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER ISMAIL A "MANDATE"-- PRESUMABLY TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT--IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDER OF ALL ARAB MILITARY FORCES. AT ANOTHER POINT, ARAFAT SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE MUST AWAIT THE TIME WHEN THE BENEFITS OF A GOVERNMENT WOULD OUTWEIGH ITS "BURDENS," BUT HE SAID SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY IF THIS WERE NEEDED AS A CONDITION FOR DISENGAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LAND.

WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION ON ARAFAT'S REFERENCE TO A "MANDATE" FOR GENERAL ISMAIL. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF FORMING A UNIFIED FOUR-PARTY ARAB NEGOTIATING DELEGATION, BUT NO DECISION

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ON HOW TO CONDUCT WEST BANK NEGOTIATIONS WILL COME ^{AT LEAST UNTIL} BEFORE THE SCHEDULED SUMMIT AMONG JORDAN, EGYPT, SYRIA, AND THE PLO. ARAFAT HIMSELF TOLD AL-AHRAM THAT THIS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EARLY NEXT MONTH.

ON A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, ARAFAT HAS PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT THIS WILL BE FORMED ONLY "WHEN CONDITIONS ARE SUITABLE," AND [REDACTED] 25X1X6

[REDACTED] REPORTED RECENTLY THAT [REDACTED] THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE UN DEBATE THAT BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 13. AMONG THE OBSTACLES IS DIS-AGREEMENT WITHIN THE PLO ON HOW TO DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT, SOMETHING ARAFAT MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND WHEN HE SPOKE OF "BURDENS." E-2 IMPDET.H

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